

They have done this through the creation of the Buffalo State Challenge. This initiative was first implemented in the fall of 2010 and will now usher in its first graduating seniors in 2014.

This program enlists students in their freshman year from McKinley High School of the Buffalo Public Schools and Oracle Charter School, and serves them throughout their four years of high school. Buffalo State has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to the community through its efforts to stem the rising tide of high school drop outs.

The "Challenge" program not only seeks to aid students within the community during high school, but aims to set these students up to take advantage of their potential through higher education. Students participating in this program who graduate with an 85 or higher average and have combined SAT scores of 1000 or higher in reading and math are awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Buffalo State.

Education is the key to success, and Buffalo State has acknowledged its understanding of this concept through the "Challenge" program. Given the means to succeed, students will succeed and Buffalo State is giving students the means to accomplish this. These achievements make me proud to honor my alma mater for its involvement in working towards making higher education a realistic possibility for so many students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Buffalo State's efforts to help make higher education more accessible to many students within the local community and also the outstanding accomplishments of the participants of the Buffalo State Challenge. I am grateful that there are institutions like Buffalo State working so hard to help improve the area that I represent.

RECOGNIZING THE 377TH AIR BASE WING AT KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 377th Air Base Wing located at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico for their continued dedication to our nation's security.

From May 28, 2014 to June 6, 2014, the Air Force Material Command and Defense Threat Reduction Agency Inspector General teams visited Kirtland AFB to evaluate the 377th Air Base Wing's ability to manage nuclear deterrence and global strike resources while complying with strict nuclear surety standards.

Nuclear surety inspections are extremely detailed and demand the highest standards of performance, compliance and accountability. The IG teams methodically evaluated numerous scenarios, special interest items and conducted a formal assessment across the 377th Air Base Wing during their Nuclear Surety Inspection.

Not only did the 377th Air Base Wing complete this demanding inspection successfully, but they received the highest nuclear surety inspection rating possible. The inspectors found that the Airmen of the 377th Air Base Wing demonstrated their ability to ensure the

safety, security and reliability of our nation's strategic deterrence capability, all while maintaining extremely high motivation, professionalism, and proficiency throughout the rigorous inspection process.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate the Airmen of the 377th Air Base Wing not just for their stellar completion of this demanding inspection, but more importantly, for the great work they do every day to deter our adversaries, assure our allies and protect the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WINNAKEE LAND TRUST

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Winnakee Land Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving the beautiful history and nature of northern Dutchess County, New York. This Saturday, July 12, the Winnakee Land Trust will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, marking a tremendous achievement in land conservation and care for New York's natural resources.

Founded in 1989, the Winnakee Land Trust was born out of the desire of local Dutchess County residents to protect open spaces and agriculture. The name "Winnakee", meaning "good land," comes from the name of a Native American tribe that roamed Dutchess County. In 2011, Winnakee earned accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, a national conservation organization with high standards for membership.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, and as an Upstate New Yorker, I am honored to have the privilege of recognizing this great organization. The Winnakee Land Trust has worked hard to engage our community all over the region and build relationships with stakeholders in the towns and villages of Clinton, Hyde Park, Milan, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and Tivoli, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Winnakee again on twenty-five years of excellence. I look forward to attending their anniversary gala this Saturday, July 12. I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate, and all Americans, to look to their example as a beacon of historic land conservation in our great nation.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS STUART E. EDGAR POST 493 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Stuart E. Edgar Post 493 Women's Auxiliary located in the Township of Nutley, Essex County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 90th anniversary.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a national organization, established in 1899, that sup-

ports and honors veterans and their families across the United States. Throughout the organization's history, the VFW has played a large role serving American veterans, including its strong support for the establishment of the Veterans Administration, creation of the National Cemetery system, and the passage of legislation for veterans, such as the G.I. Bill for the Twenty-First Century. In 1996, the VFW launched Operation Uplink, a program that allows deployed service members to call home, free of charge, on three designated days each month.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign War was established in 1924 and brings together the mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of veterans in order to celebrate those who have served in the military. In 2010, the Post 493 Women's Auxiliary found itself in serious financial trouble. However, through the dedication of its members, coupled with help from local community, the Auxiliary was able to raise the funds to allow the organization to continue and flourish. Today, VFW Post 493 and the Women's Auxiliary continue to bring together about 100 men and women from the Township of Nutley, as well as the Township of Belleville.

In addition to advancing the broader mission and goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 493 and the Women's Auxiliary carry out a number of duties throughout the year. These duties include marching in local parades as well as performing services at war memorials on holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also hold events to raise funds for scholarships, services for veterans, and other goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2010, through the Adopt-A-Unit program, Post 493 sent packages of goods to two Army units—the Second Battalion, 113th Infantry of Newark and First Battalion, 102nd Cavalry of West Orange. Twice a year, members host parties and serve dinner to patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey.

The Auxiliary's efforts and contributions have made an enormous impact on the community, local veterans, their families, and the VFW at large.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Veterans of Foreign War Stuart E. Edgar Post 493 Women's Auxiliary as it celebrates its 90th anniversary.

HONORING DR. JOHN HAEGER ON HIS RETIREMENT FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and extraordinary educator in my community of Flagstaff, Arizona, Dr. John Haeger, who is retiring after 13 years as president of Northern Arizona University (NAU).

NAU is one of the great universities in my state and, with Dr. Haeger's vision and commitment, has become one of the best universities in the country.

Collaborations and partnerships were a hallmark of President Haeger's leadership and